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ENG 2011G-002: Literature, the Self, and the World (Fiction)

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Literature, the Self and the World (Fiction)
ENGL 2011 (Coleman Hall 3150)

Dr. Donelle R. Ruwe
Fall 2002
M/W/F from 10:00-10:50

Office: CH 3851
Office Phone: 6299
Office Hours: 9:00-10:00 M/W
Or by appointment

Difference

Course Description and Objectives:

As we read significant works of fiction, we will discuss issues of *difference*. Our focus will not be on external differences, such as those between different races, genders, and generations (though we will discuss these differences, too). Rather, our focus is on *internal differences*. We will ask what it means to be different from others, what kinds of differences exist, what motivates individuals to act and think independently. Conversely, we will consider what forces in society compel us to conform, and we will analyze ways in which we act and think the same. We will question the numbing effects of everything from Disney films to classroom routines. We will also question whether or not difference is always a good thing.

I hope that we will, finally, begin to think of ways to make a difference.

You will keep a class thinking and reading-response journal for this course. YOU MUST KEEP THE JOURNAL UP-TO-DATE AND BRING IT TO EACH CLASS. At various unannounced classes I will collect your journals, and in some classes you will exchange your journals with other students.

Tangible Course Outcomes:

By the end of the course, students will be able to do the following:

- Use precise, economical, vivid diction suitable to academic writing
- Practice expressive and personal writing
- Prepare entertaining presentations independently and in groups
- Complete essays of more than five paragraphs
- Use precise vocabulary about the elements of fiction in discussing texts
- Show increased sophistication and independence of thought about "difference"

Requirements: Students will complete challenging academic writing assignments. Students will read additional book selections independently and prepare written reports/projects.

Required Texts:

Kate Chopin, The Awakening

Franz Kafka, The Metamorphosis

Lois Lowry, The Giver

Alison Lurie, The Oxford Book of Modern Fairy Tales

Mary Shelley, Frankenstein, Or the Modern Prometheus

Leslie Marmon Silko, Ceremony

Robert Louis Stevenson, The Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde

Miscellaneous Handouts and Additional Readings: Course Packet

Attendance Policy and Student Responsibilities: Students are to complete all assignments on time, be present for classes, and participate in class discussions. For missed classes, students should consult with classmates about what occurred, borrow class notes, and ask me for copies of any handouts. **Excessive, unexcused absences defined as 3 missed classes will result in a student's grade being dropped one level (a 4.0 would become a 3.5, for example). Over 5 unexcused class hours results in a failing final grade. Habitual lateness (tardies) will be counted as an absence.** It is the student's responsibility to provide appropriate documentation to prove any justifiable absences (death in the family, illness). However, please remember that even if a student can document appropriate reasons for missing numerous classes, at some point the student will have missed too many classes to receive a passing grade.

Papers: Papers must be computer generated: double spaced, a standard 1-inch margin, a heading on the top left corner of the essay's first page. The heading should say your name, the name of the assignment, and the date. Do not attempt to tinker with the font size or margins in order to fool the instructor into thinking that your paper is the appropriate length. Such trickery will result in a lowered grade.

Grading Policy: I grade on a point system: each assignment is worth a certain number of points (essays and projects are typically worth 50 to 100 points, quizzes and brief homework assignments are typically worth 10 to 20 points). Your journal will be graded at numerous times throughout the semester. At the end of the semester, I add your total accumulated points and divide this number by the total number of points possible to figure out your percentage grade. These percentages correspond to number grades as follows:

90-100%	A
80-89%	B
70-79%	C
60-69	D
50-0%	F

Rewrite Policy: I accept no rewrites or late papers unless a student is absent because of a valid emergency. If you plan to be absent for a school event, for example, or any other reason, turn in any required assignments ahead of time.

Extra Credit: For up to 30 points in extra credit (10 pts. per event), students may attend cultural events on campus. These include plays and concerts and literary readings. Students will submit (within 5 days of the event) a 2-page typed narrative describing the event and the students's response to the events. Use superior grammar and writing skills or you will earn no extra credit points!

Course Accommodations for Students with Disabilities: If you need certain accommodations because of a disability, or if you have emergency medical information to share with me, or if you need special arrangements in case the building must be evacuated, please made an appointment with me as soon as possible.

Plagiarism and Academic Dishonesty: Cheating in any form results in a zero grade for the assignment with no chance for make-up. Depending upon the severity and frequency of the cheating, I reserve the right to give the student who has cheated a failing grade. Typical forms of cheating include (but are not limited to): copying someone else's work; copying work from the internet or other print sources; pretending to be sick in order to avoid a deadline; paraphrasing someone else's work; paraphrasing work from the internet or other print sources without acknowledgement; failing to identify the source of ideas and materials; having another person do your work; resubmitting a paper of your own that was written for

another course.

Learning how to write effectively is an essential life skill. This may be your last chance to have a trained writing professional carefully and conscientiously work with you on your writing. Don't screw it up. Learn how to write.

Disclosure: I reserve the right to alter the syllabus to meet the needs of the class. Remember, that the syllabus is itself a work of fiction. It hangs together and seems to make sense, just like a story or a novel, but stories and novels (and syllabi) are always revised.

Class Reading Schedule:

August 26-30

Class Introduction, Assignment on Understanding our Similarities

Lois Lowry, The Giver

The Urge to be the Same

Sept. 4, 6 (Sept. 2 is Labor Day)

Understanding Pedagogy and the School as an Ideological State Apparatus

Analysis of Schools

Sept. 11, 13

Kate Chopin, The Awakening

Difference in Society

Sept. 16, 18, 20

Essay on Awakenings to Difference, to Sameness

Writing Workshop

Sept. 23, 25, 27

"Red Riding Hood"; "Ashputtle"

Selections from Lurie, Oxford Book of Modern Fairy Tales

Jack Zipes, "Breaking the Disney Spell"

Sept. 30, Oct 2, 4

Karen E. Rowe, "Feminism and Fairy Tales"

Short Essay Due: Critiquing the Disney Film

(Walt Disney's "Beauty and the Beast"; "Cinderella"; etc.)

Oct. 7, 9, 11

The Myths of Prometheus; Plato's "The Allegory of the Cave" (The Republic)

Mary Shelley's Frankenstein

Oct. 14, 16 (Oct. 18 is Fall Break)

Frankenstein

Essay on Frankenstein due.

Oct. 21, 23, 25

Robert Louis Stevenson, Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde

Freud and the Uncanny

Oct. 28, 30, Nov. 1

Franz Kafka, The Metamorphosis

The Mundane and Ordinary

Essay on Metamorphosis/Jekyll and Hyde is Due

Nov. 4, 6, 8

Understanding the Scapegoat

"The Book of Job"
Verdi's Rigoletto

Nov. 11, 13, 15
Leslie Marmon Silko, Ceremony

Nov. 18, 20, 22
Silko's Ceremony
Essay on Ceremony is due.

Nov. 25-30 Thanksgiving Break

Dec. 2, 4, 6
PRESENTATIONS

Dec. 9, 11, 13 (Dec. 13 is Last Class Day)
PRESENTATIONS